Loss of production in NTC Mills

2442. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production in a number of cotton mills under the operation of National Textile Corporation has been going down since their take-over by the National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the total amount of loss suffered by each of these losing textile mills since their take-over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) There are no such mills in which production has been consistently falling since their take-over by the National Textile Corporation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Trade Ties between India and Japan

2443. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new trade tie-ups have recently been discussed betwen India and Japan;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the discussion;

(c) wnether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the Japanese investment in India during the last three years; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether the issue was also taken up in the meeting held recently between the two Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The possibilities of promoting trade between India and Japan were discussed at the 8th Standing Committee Meeting of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committees held in Delhi on 25th July, 1985. A number of areas were identified for industrial collaboration, transfer of technology and bilateral trade.

(c) and (d) The level of Japanese investment in India has declined during the last three years. In the 8th Standing Committeee Meeting, the Japanese side felt that the infrastructual facilities in India require further improvement to attract Japanese investers.

Shortage of soft coal

2444. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of soft coal for the domestic purposes in the country at present;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the problem of transport has any effect on the movement of coal from pit-heads to consumers;

(d) whether any efforts have been made to get the cooperation of road transport for the movement of soft coal; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Due to shortfall in the production of soft coke on account of scarcity of water during summer months and certain other administrative reasons, supply has fallen short of the demand. The coal companies have been asked to step up production of soft coke to meet its full demand.

(c) to (e) The overall availability of railway wagons is not adequate to meet the requirements for movement of coal. However, soft coke is moved by rail on a higher priority. Soft coke is also supplied to states nearer to the collieries namely—Bihar, U.P., and West Bengal by road, in addition to supplies by rail.